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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THIRD WAVE TECHNOLOGIES, INC. [US/US]; 502 South Rosa Road, Madison, WI 53719 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ALLAWI, Hatim [JO/US]; 33 Oakbridge Court #21, Madison, WI 53717 (US). BARTHOLOMAY, Christian, Tor [US/US]; 1913 Reetz Road, Madison, WI 53711 (US). CHEHAK, Lu-Anne [US/US]; 3211 Vold Court, Apartment 8, Janesville, WI 53546 (US). CURTIS, Michelle, L. [US/US]; 2740 Nadene Road, Cottage Grove, WI 53527 (US). EIS, Peggy, S. [US/US]; 5781 Pembroke Drive, Madison, WI 53711 (US). HALL, Jeff, G. [US/US]; 6305 Dylan Drive, Madison, WI 53719 (US). IP, Hon, S. [CA/US]; 6310 Pilgrim Road, Madison, WI 53711 (US). KAISER, Michael [US/US]; 2901 Shefford Drive, Madison, WI 53719 (US). KWIATKOWSKI, Robert, W., Jr. [US/US]; 506 Azurene Lane, Verona, WI 53593 (US). LUKOWIAK, Andrew, A. [US/US]; 2254 High Ridge Trail, Madison, WI 53713 (US). LYAMICHEV, Victor [RU/US]; 2523 Carriedale Court, Madison, WI 53711 (US). MA, WuPo [CN/US]; 1110 N. Westfield Road, Madison, WI 53717 (US). OLSON-MUNOZ, Marilyn, C. [US/US]; 5878 Tree Line Drive, Madison, WI 53711 (US). OLSON, Sarah, M. [US/US]; 2968 Thinnes Street, Cross Plains, WI 53528 (US). SCHAEFER, James, J. [US/US]; 4369 Crawford Drive, Madison, WI 53711 (US). SKRZYPCZYNSKI, Zbigniew [PL/US]; 881 Orchid. Street, Verona, WI 53953 (US). TAKOVA, Tsetska, Y. [US/US]; 9 Oak Glen Court, Madison, WI 53717 (US). VEDVIK, Kevin, L. [US/US]; 1302 Monica Lane, Madison, WI 53704 (US). LYAMICHEV, Natalie, E. [RU/US]; 2523 Carriedale Court, Madison, WI 53711 (US). NERI, Bruce, P. [US/US]; 5714 Kilkenny Place, Madison, WI 53711 (US).

- (74) Agents: CASIMIR, David, A. et al.; Medlen & Carroll, LLP, 220 Montgomery Street, Suite 2200, San Francisco, CA 94104 (US).
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(54) Title: DETECTION OF RNA

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides novel cleavage agents and polymerases for the cleavage and modification of nucleic acid. The cleavage agents and polymerases find use, for example, for the detection and characterization of nucleic acid sequences and variations in nucleic acid sequences. In some embodiments, the 5' nuclease activity of a variety of enzymes is used to cleave a target-dependent cleavage structure, thereby indicating the presence of specific nucleic acid sequences or specific variations thereof.

